

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ESTABLISHMENT OF DUAL PARTY RELAY)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FOR)	ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARING-IMPAIRED OR SPEECH-IMPAIRED)	CASE NO. 333
PERSONS IN KENTUCKY)	

O R D E R

On October 7, 1992, the Kentucky Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Committee petitioned the Commission for reconsideration of two issues: 1) the makeup of the Advisory Committee members and 2) expense reimbursements for Advisory Committee members who are not reimbursed through another agency.

The Advisory Committee requested that it be allowed to add four members to the Advisory Committee who are hard of hearing or speech impaired in order to more closely reflect the consumers of the service, 80 percent of whom are hard of hearing or speech impaired. In its Order of April 15, 1991, the Commission denied the request of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for a 13-member Advisory Committee. The Commission felt that a 13-member group would cause difficulty in coordinating meetings and result in diminished effectiveness of the Advisory Committee.

Upon considering this petition, the Commission finds that two additional members should be added to the Advisory Committee, bringing the total to 11. To achieve the Advisory Committee's goal of having a higher percentage of hard of hearing or speech-impaired

members, the Commission finds that it would be appropriate to replace some current members who are not hard of hearing or speech impaired with individuals who have those disabilities. Limiting the official membership does not preclude anyone from commenting on the Kentucky Telecommunications Relay Service, because the Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

The Advisory Committee also requested that the decision to deny expense reimbursement be reconsidered.

In an informal conference on May 22, 1991, AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. requested that Advisory Committee members whose expenses are not reimbursed by an agency be reimbursed through the Kentucky Telecommunications Relay Service's surcharge fund. The Commission, in a letter dated June 26, 1991, denied AT&T's request stating:

The DPRS Advisory Committee has been created at the request of AT&T and the hearing/speech-impaired community as an assistance in the implementation and initial operational period of DPRS in Kentucky. The Committee does not fall within the definition of an administrative advisory board contemplated by KRS Chapter 12 to which expense reimbursement may be made. Therefore, the members must absorb their individual expenses incurred as a result of Advisory Committee membership.

The Commission confirms its earlier decision. The request should be denied for the reasons cited previously; the Advisory Committee is not an administrative advisory board for which expense reimbursement may be made.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

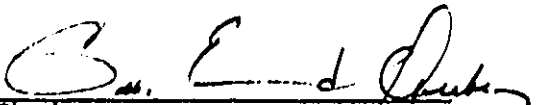
1. The Kentucky Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Committee be granted authority to increase its membership to a total of 11 members.

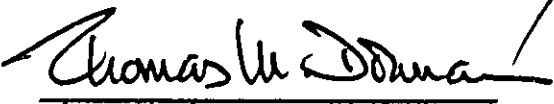
2. The Advisory Committee may reassign positions, within its discretion, to include a higher percentage of individuals who are hard of hearing or speech impaired.

3. The request for expense reimbursement for Advisory Committee members through the Kentucky Telecommunications Relay Service's surcharge fund is denied for the reasons stated herein.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 25th day of November, 1992.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director